

9 March 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Loan of U-2 to Navy

REF: [REDACTED]

25X1

1. It was over a year ago that Navy came to us to see if we could fly this mission for them. We were perfectly agreeable but [REDACTED] questioned the priority, and Navy apparently ran into difficulties in the JRC. The sum total of the effort was that the Navy very definitely preferred to have us do the mission for them rather than the Air Force in as much they did not want to wait the year required if we did not do it. Events have seemed to prove the case.

25X1

2. The cable this morning is written as if Frank were speaking for the NRO and has apparently committed us to contract "white" Navy money in the "black" system. We can do this but it is not up to [REDACTED] to make these commitments. He has also indicated that he wants L/C Hull to act as contract officer, but I recognize that when queried he will say that he wanted him to act as contract monitor. The only person with contract officer authority in this office is [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

3. I guess if we are all leaning forward and trying to get things done there is nothing particularly wrong with this message but I dislike [REDACTED] playing off the JRC, the NRO, the Air Force and ourselves against one another and orchestrating the whole thing through the back door as if he ranks Gen. Ryan.

25X1

Cyto: @cmD/WSA (3/22/72)
-Plo

[REDACTED]
DD/SA

25X1

NAVY review(s) completed.

SECRET